DC
SPECIAL!
THE Omega MEN UNLEASHED!
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
ALL NEW! 60¢
NO. 536
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AUCTION
WHAT AM I BID FOR THE RIGHT TO KILL SUPERMAN?
S-3962
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ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
TO LOOK AT HIM NOW, YOU'D NEVER KNOW THIS IS THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE UNIVERSE, WOULD YOU?
BUT THEN, THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING AT ALL WELL FOR SUPERMAN OF LATE...
MAN, THIS PLACE STILL BLOWS ME AWAY, MOLE! I CAN'T GET OVER YOU FINDING THIS UNDERGROUND CITY--LIKE SOMEONE LEFT IT HERE KNOWING WE'D NEED IT!
WHO BUILT THIS PLACE, ANYWAY?
I DON'T KNOW, NUMBER THREE-- AND I COULDN'T CARE LESS! WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT IT'S HERE--
--THE PERFECT HIDEOUT FOR US... AND SOMEWHERE TO BRING OUR UNWILLING GUEST--SUPERMAN!
S-3972
BATTLE BENEATH THE EARTH!
MARV WOLFMAN PLOT / PAUL KUPPERBERG SCRIPT / JOE STATON PENCILS / SAL TRAPANI INKS / BEN ODA LETTERS / G. D'ANGELO COLORS / JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITS

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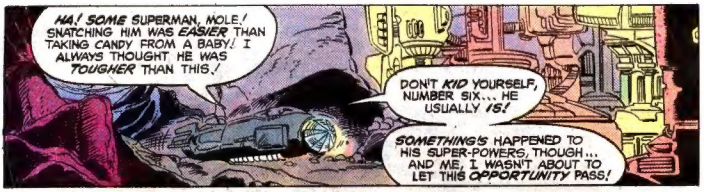
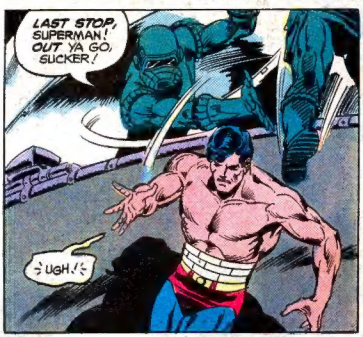

HA! SOME SUPERMAN, MOLE! SNATCHING HIM WAS EASIER THAN TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY! I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS TOUGHER THAN THIS!
DON'T KID YOURSELF, NUMBER SIX... HE USUALLY IS!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIS SUPER-POWERS, THOUGH... AND ME, I WASN'T ABOUT TO LET THIS OPPORTUNITY PASS!


LAST STOP, SUPERMAN! OUT YA GO, SUCKER!
UGH!

WELL, WELL... WILL YOU LOOK AT WHAT THEY BRUNG US FROM TOPSIDE, GUYS! SHOOT, I BEEN WAITIN' FOR THE CHANCE TO DO THIS EVER SINCE THIS CRUD SENT ME UP SIX YEARS AGO!
KAPOW
DON'T BE GREEDY, MAN! LEAVE SOME OF 'IM FOR THE REST OF US!

YA PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER ME, SUPERMAN... BUT I AIN'T EVER GONNA FORGET YOU BUSTIN' ME ON A MURDER RAP!
STOP!
UNNNNH!

I TOLD YOU TO COOL IT, YOU CLOWNS! I DIDN'T BRING HIM HERE FOR YOU TO USE AS A PUNCHING BAG!
NO, I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS FOR THE EX-MAN OF STEEL--
UHHH

--AND THEY DON'T INCLUDE KILLING HIM... LEASTWAYS NOT YET!
YOU'RE GONNA LIKE WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM, I PROMISE YOU THAT! MEANTIME, LOCK HIM UP IN ONE OF THE CELLS!
AND TIE HIM UP TIGHT! HE MAY NOT BE OPERATING AT FULL STRENGTH, BUT I STILL DON'T TRUST HIM!

SOME TIME LATER, IN A CELL BENEATH THE UNDERGROUND CITY...
IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME FOR PANIC, THIS IS IT! EVERY INCH OF ME HURTS--
--AND WITH ONLY HALF MY POWERS OPERATING, I DON'T SEE ANY WAY OUT OF THIS PICKLE. I...
WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME! THE LAST THING I CAN AFFORD NOW IS TO GIVE UP--
"--ESPECIALLY WITH THINGS THIS TOUGH!
"ALL RIGHT--SO I WAS CAUGHT UP IN A MYSTIC WAR BETWEEN THE SORCERERS LORD SANTANIS AND HIS WIFE SYRENE THAT SPLIT ME INTO TWO SUPERMEN, EACH POSSESSING ONLY SOME OF MY SUPER-POWERS.
"SYRENE ESCAPED WITH MY OTHER HALF... THE ONE POSSESSING MY INVULNERABILITY AMONG OTHERS.
"MY ONLY SHOT AT REJOINING MYSELF LAY HUNDREDS OF YEARS IN THE PAST, BUT BEFORE I COULD FIGURE OUT THAT PROBLEM, A COUPLE MORE CROPPED UP--
"--AND THE OTHER, THE CRIMINAL MOLE.
"--ONE OF THEM BEING THE OMEGA MEN, A GROUP OF COSMIC REFUGEES WHO SOUGHT ME OUT TO HELP THEM RETURN TO THEIR HOME AMONG THE STARS--
"JUST MY LUCK TO STEP IN FRONT OF MOLE'S GUN, FORGETTING I WASN'T INVULNERABLE TO THAT TYPE OF THING ANY MORE!
"LUCKILY, MY COSTUME WAS STILL IMPERVIOUS TO HARM. IT STOPPED ME FROM SUFFERING MORE THAN A FEW SMASHED RIBS, THE OMEGA MEN GOT ME TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE THE DOCTORS COULD FIX THE DAMAGE--
"--BUT THE MOLE HAD OTHER IDEAS! HE WANTED ME--"
--AND NOW HE'S GOT ME!
SURE, I'VE STILL GOT MY SUPER-STRENGTH... BUT A FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT DOES ME AFTER PRACTICALLY GETTING BLOWN IN HALF, THEN GOING UNDER THE SURGEON'S KNIFE.
IT'LL BE A WHILE TILL I'M BACK UP TO FULL STRENGTH. MAYBE THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS THEN--BUT I'M NOT USED TO BEING ONLY HALF A SUPERMAN--
--AND RAO HELP ME, IT HURTS...
...HURTS SO BAD...
3

MEANWHILE, IN THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF THE OPERATING THEATER IN METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL...
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THEY KIDNAPPED SUPERMAN RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER OUR NOSES--AND THERE WASN'T A THING WE COULD DO TO STOP THEM!
YOU TRIED, MS. LANE. THEY WERE JUST TOO POWERFUL FOR US.
BUT WHAT ABOUT SUPERMAN, DOCTOR? HE'S HURT BAD...THIS COULD... COULD KILL HIM!
LET US HOPE NOT, LOIS LANE.
HARPIS! WHERE WERE YOU AND THE REST OF THE OMEGA MEN WHILE THIS WAS HAPPENING?
WE WERE LURED AWAY BY ONE OF THE MOLE'S DIGGING MACHINES--
--AND THOUGH WE WERE ABLE TO APPREHEND THE FELONS, I FEAR THEIR MACHINE WAS DESTROYED IN THE PROCESS.
THEN WE HAVE TO GO AFTER SUPERMAN WITHOUT IT.
NOT I! WE HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME DALLYING WITH THE CONCERNS OF THIS PLANET WHILE OUR OWN WORLD DIES THAT MUCH MORE EACH DAY WE ARE AWAY!
DO NOT PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR US ALL, HARPIS! ARE WE NOT FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM, AND CANNOT SUPERMAN AID US IN OUR QUEST?
IN ALL CONSCIENCE, HOW MAY WE DENY HELP TO THIS MAN? WERE IT TO BE ALONE, I WOULD STAY, BUT YOU --AND THE OMEGA MEN AWAITING US BACK AT OUR BASE IN NEWFOUNDLAND --ARE LIKEWISE INVOLVED. LET US VOTE UPON THIS DECISION.
WHAT SAY YOU, NIMBUS?
I SAY... WE HELP!
MY WIFE, KALISTA...AND BROOT, YOUR VOTES--?
NEED YOU EVEN ASK, MY HUSBAND?
IF BROOT CAN SMASH THINGS, THEN BROOT WILL STAY TOO!
I STILL BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE ON OUR WAY...BUT I WILL STAND WITH YOU ON THIS, PRIMUS.
IT IS SETTLED THEN, LOIS LANE! WE HELP YOUR MAN!
THANK GOD...AND THANK YOU ALL!
THE DECISION MADE, THE OMEGA MEN ARE NOT OMES TO HESITATE--
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CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

--WHEN THERE IS A DEED TO BE DONE. AND SO...
BUT WE ARE MERELY DELAYED-- NOT STOPPED.
SHELTER YOURSELVES, MY FRIENDS--
--WHILE MY PSIONIC POWERS--
--CLEAR THE WAY!
UHHH... NO--IT... IT CANNOT BE--
-THE MOLE'S TRAIL IS EASY, AT LEAST, TO FOLLOW, MY HUSBAND.
NOT SO EASY AS YOU THINK, WIFE. IT ENDS HERE --THE EXCAVATION FILLED IN, PRESUMABLY, BEHIND THE DIGGING MACHINE.
--I HAVE...FAILED! TH-THE OBSTRUCTION WAS TOO MUCH EVEN FOR MY POWERS!
THEN LET BROOT TRY! NOTHING MAY STAND FOR LONG AGAINST THE MIGHT OF MY FISTS!
BAH! THOSE WE SEEK MAY WELL BE MILES FROM HERE. IT WOULD TAKE WEEKS FOR YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH TO SMASH THROUGH ALL THAT.
THEN WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST, NIMBUS? YOUR POWERS ARE USELESS IN THIS... AS ARE MINE!
BUT PERHAPS MINE ARE NOT, HARPIS.
STAND ASIDE NOW--
--AND LET MY SORCERESS-MIGHT DO ITS WORK!
5

THE MYSTICAL BARRAGE CONTINUES FOR LONG, TENSE MOMENTS, UNTIL...
OOOHHH
I FEAR I...HAVE BEEN NO MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN YOU, MY HUSBAND, IT IS...IMPOSSIBLE!
REST, KALISTA! IT WOULD NOT DO TO SPEND YOURSELF ON THIS FUTILE EFFORT.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUST GIVE UP--?
WE HAVE DONE ALL WE COULD, EARTHLING! WHAT MORE WOULD YOU ASK OF US?
HMMM...MAYBE THERE IS ONE THING, HARPIS--
"--YOU COULD GET ME TO A TELEPHONE... PRONTO!"
...YOU HEARD ME, JIMMY! I NEED YOU TO CHECK OUT THE MICROFILM FILES FOR ME!
...RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO LOCATE SOMEONE...AND FAST! DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS, JIMMY--SUPERMAN'S LIFE DEPENDS ON THIS--
"--IF IT'S NOT ALREADY TOO LATE..."
I APPRECIATE YOUR ALL RESPONDING SO QUICKLY TO MY SUMMONS, FELLOW FELONS... BUT THEN, I WAS SURE YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST ONCE YOU HEARD WHO THE GUEST OF HONOR AT THIS LITTLE FETE WAS TO BE!
LADIES AND GENTS--I GIVE YOU--SUPERMAN... LITERALLY!
BECAUSE ONE OF YOU LUCKY FOLKS IS GONNA BE THE ONE TO KILL HIM!
6

C'MON, MOLE! YOU THINK WE'RE ALL IDIOTS? HOW DO WE KNOW THAT'S REALLY SUPERMAN YOU GOT THERE?
AND IF IT IS, HOW'CUM YOU'RE ABLE TO KEEP HIM ALL TRUSSED UP WITHOUT HIM BUSTIN' LOOSE?
OH, HE'S THE REAL THING, ALL RIGHT. IF HE WASN'T, HOW WOULD THIS LASER-BLASTER BE ABLE TO BOUNCE HARMLESSLY OFF HIS CAPE? IT'S STILL INVULNERABLE, EVEN IF HE ISN'T!
ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?
OKAY, LISTEN UP! I HAD EACH OF YOU BRING YOUR MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS TO THIS GATHERING--
--AND THE ONE WITH THE GREATEST WEAPON IS GONNA HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF KNOCKING OFF THE MAN OF STEEL.'
THE WHOLE WORLD'LL KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE.' I'VE GOT TV-CAMERAS SET UP TO RECORD THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION FOR JUST THAT PURPOSE.'
ALL I ASK IN RETURN FOR THIS HONOR IS THE WINNER'S WEAPON TO CARVE OUT MY OWN CRIMINAL EMPIRE WITH.'
THOSE'RE THE TERMS, FOLKS. NOW, WHO'LL OPEN UP THE BIDDING?
MOLE--YOU SLIMY...
AH-AH, SUPERMAN! YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO GET ME ANGRY AND FORCE ME TO KILL YOU MYSELF! THAT'D RUIN EVERYBODY ELSE'S FUN! HA HA HA!
MEANWHILE, MANY MILES ABOVE, IN THE SKIES OVER METROPOLIS...
IS THIS THE PLACE YOU SEEK, LOIS LANE?
STAR
THAT'S IT, PRIMUS-- S.T.A.R. LABS! ACCORDING TO MY INFORMATION, THIS IS WHERE WE'LL FIND THE MAN WE WANT.

WHO--WHAT--THE DEVIL ARE YOU PEOPLE...?
THAT DOES NOT MATTER, WOMAN. IT IS IMPERATIVE WE LOCATE ONE WHO RESIDES HERE ...ONE CAVE CARSON!
THEN YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, CARSON'S NO LONGER HERE!
BAH! HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE TO DENY OUR OWN MISSION TO PARTAKE IN THIS HOPELESS TASK?
CONTROL YOUR TEMPER, HARPIS. WE ARE FAR FROM STYMIED.
WHERE IS THIS CARSON NOW? AND WHERE IS HIS MACHINE?
WELL... I SUPPOSE I CAN TELL YOU, IT'S NO REAL SECRET ANYWAY.
HE'S BECOME PRETTY MUCH A RECLUSE ON AN ISLAND IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC--HERE!
THEN THAT IS ALL I NEED TO KNOW TO SEEK HIM OUT THROUGH SORCEROUS MEANS...
"..AHH, I SEE IT NOW. THERE STANDS HIS HOME... AND HIS MUCH VAUNTED DIGGING MACHINE--
"--AND NOW I SEE THE MAN HIMSELF. BUT HE IS ONE MUCH FILLED WITH ANGER--
GET AWAY FROM THAT, BLAST YOUR HIDE!
CAN'T YOU PEOPLE LEAVE ME BE--?
"NO MATTER, THOUGH.
"FOR IF THE EARTHWOMAN SAYS ME IS THE ONE WE NEED--
"--THEN NOTHING WILL STOP MY MYSTICAL MIGHT FROM BRINGING HIM TO US--
"..REGARDLESS OF DISTANCE OR FOUL TEMPERAMENT--

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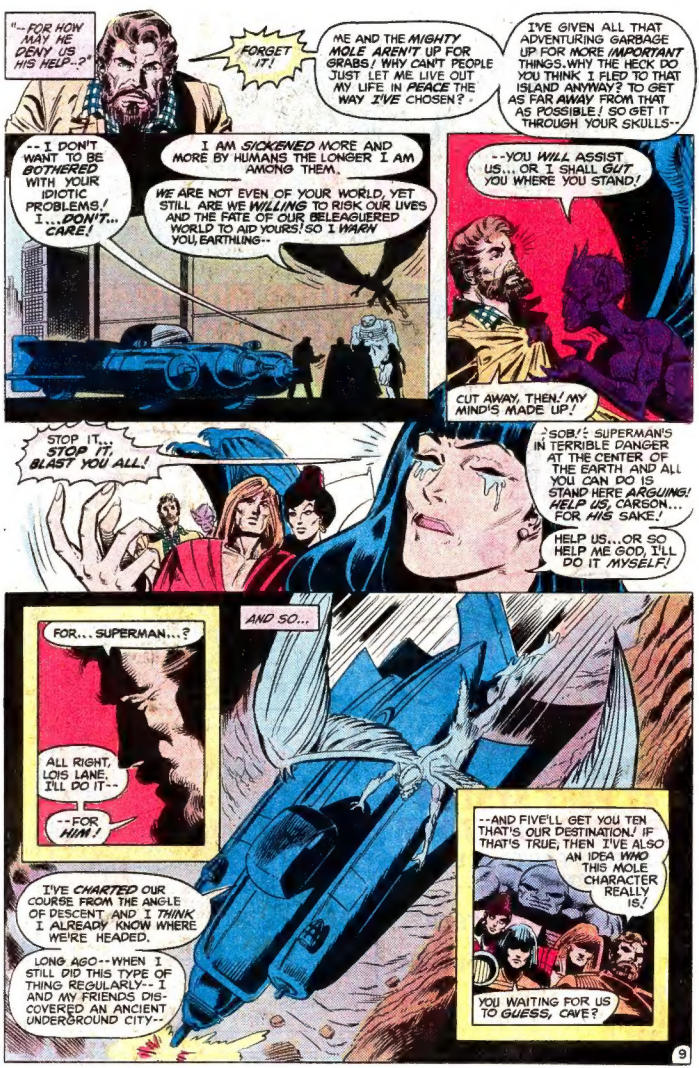
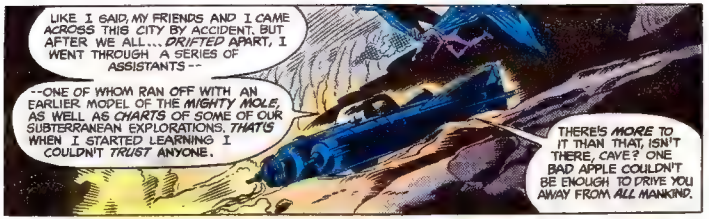
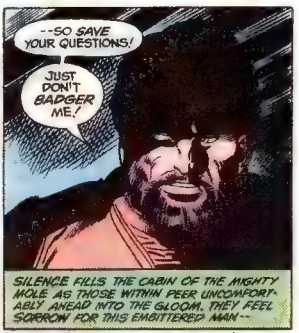
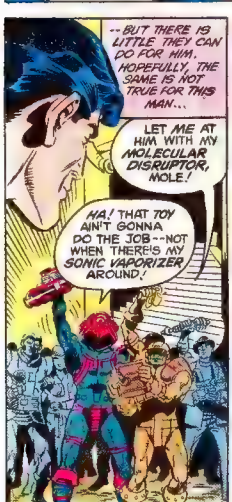

"--FOR HOW MAY HE DENY US HIS HELP--?"
FORGET IT!
ME AND THE MIGHTY MOLE AREN'T UP FOR GRABS! WHY CAN'T PEOPLE JUST LET ME LIVE OUT MY LIFE IN PEACE THE WAY I'VE CHOSEN?
I'VE GIVEN ALL THAT ADVENTURING GARBAGE UP FOR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS. WHY THE HECK DO YOU THINK I FLED TO THAT ISLAND ANYWAY? TO GET AS FAR AWAY FROM THAT AS POSSIBLE! SO GET IT THROUGH YOUR SKULLS--
-- I DON'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED WITH YOUR IDIOTIC PROBLEMS! I...DON'T... CARE!
I AM SICKENED MORE AND MORE BY HUMANS THE LONGER I AM AMONG THEM.
WE ARE NOT EVEN OF YOUR WORLD, YET STILL ARE WE WILLING TO RISK OUR LIVES AND THE FATE OF OUR BELEAGUERED WORLD TO AID YOURS! SO I WARN YOU, EARTHLING--
--YOU WILL ASSIST US... OR I SHALL GUT YOU WHERE YOU STAND!
CUT AWAY, THEN! MY MIND'S MADE UP!
STOP IT... STOP IT, BLAST YOU ALL!
SOB! SUPERMAN'S IN TERRIBLE DANGER AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS STAND HERE ARGUING! HELP US, CARSON... FOR HIS SAKE!
HELP US...OR SO HELP ME GOD, I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
AND SO...
FOR... SUPERMAN...?
ALL RIGHT, LOIS LANE, I'LL DO IT--
--FOR HIM!
I'VE CHARTED OUR COURSE FROM THE ANGLE OF DESCENT AND I THINK I ALREADY KNOW WHERE WE'RE HEADED.
LONG AGO--WHEN I STILL DID THIS TYPE OF THING REGULARLY-- I AND MY FRIENDS DISCOVERED AN ANCIENT UNDERGROUND CITY--
--AND FIVE'LL GET YOU TEN THAT'S OUR DESTINATION! IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN I'VE ALSO AN IDEA WHO THIS MOLE CHARACTER REALLY IS!
YOU WAITING FOR US TO GUESS, CAVE?


LIKE I SAID, MY FRIENDS AND I CAME ACROSS THIS CITY BY ACCIDENT. BUT AFTER WE ALL...DRIFTED APART, I WENT THROUGH A SERIES OF ASSISTANTS--
--ONE OF WHOM RAN OFF WITH AN EARLIER MODEL OF THE MIGHTY MOLE, AS WELL AS CHARTS OF SOME OF OUR SUBTERRANEAN EXPLORATIONS. THAT'S WHEN I STARTED LEARNING I COULDN'T TRUST ANYONE.
THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT, ISN'T THERE, CAVE? ONE BAD APPLE COULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO DRIVE YOU AWAY FROM ALL MANKIND.

YEAH...THERE'S MORE, BUT IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, LANE.
IT CONCERNS NOBODY BUT MYSELF. LOOK, I AGREED TO HELP YOU--


--SO SAVE YOUR QUESTIONS!
JUST DON'T BADGER ME.!
SILENCE FILLS THE CABIN OF THE MIGHTY MOLE AS THOSE WITHIN PEER UNCOMFORTABLY AHEAD INTO THE GLOOM. THEY FEEL SORROW FOR THIS EMBITTERED MAN--


--BUT THERE IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO FOR HIM. HOPEFULLY, THE SAME IS NOT TRUE FOR THIS MAN...
LET ME AT HIM WITH MY MOLECULAR DISRUPTOR, MOLE!
HA! THAT TOY AIN'T GONNA DO THE JOB--NOT WHEN THERE'S MY SONIC VAPORIZER AROUND!

FORGET ALL THEM BOZOS, MOLE. MY NAME'S THE HUNTER AND THIS HERE'S AN OMNI-WAVE BLASTER.
I GUARANTEE IT'LL DO THE JOB ON SUPERMAN--EVEN IF HE WAS STILL OPERATING ON ALL CYLINDERS. WHAT D'YOU SAY TO THAT?

I'D SAY...
YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A SUPERMAN TO KILL, HUNTER.!

STOP THIS NOW, MOLE! DON'T YOU THINK MY COMPANIONS ARE GOING TO BE COMING AFTER ME?
BIG HAIRY DEAL! IT'LL TAKE THEM DAYS TO DIG THEIR WAY DOWN HERE, AND BY THAT TIME YOU'RE GONNA BE LONG DEAD!
NOW SMILE PRETTY FOR THE CAMERAS, SUPERMAN... AND SAY BYE-BYE! READY, HUNTER?
YOU KIDDING? I'VE BEEN READY FOR THIS FOR YEARS! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
UGH!
WHA--?!
AH! AT LAST BROOT HAS SOMETHING TO SMASH!
YOUR MYSTIC BOLT WAS WELL-PLACED, MY WIFE. SUPERMAN IS SAFE!
ALAS, THE VILE EARTHLINGS SHALL NOT FARE NEARLY AS WELL.
SAVE YOUR WORDS, HARPIS. IT WILL BE ACTIONS THAT COUNT NOW.
SWEET!
THANK RAO!
ANOTHER SECOND AND I WOULD'VE BEEN JUST A MEMORY. IT'S... OH-OH! THAT LASER-BLAST WAS TOO CLOSE--
--AND I'M NOT DOING MYSELF OR THE OMEGA MEN ANY GOOD STANDING HERE LIKE JOAN OF ARC TIED TO THE STAKE!
AND SINCE I'VE REGAINED ALL THE STRENGTH I'M GOING TO--
--LET'S JUST SEE IF THESE CHAINS CAN STILL HOLD ME!
AHHH, DIDN'T THINK SO--!
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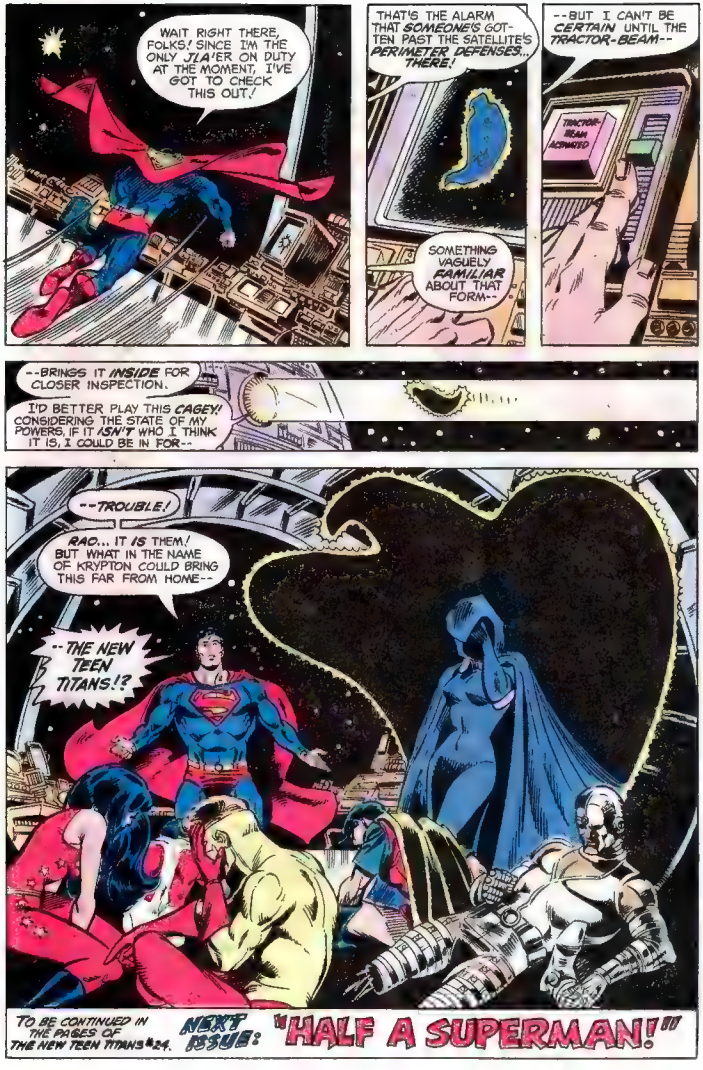
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, GAPING, YOU IDIOTS--
--GET THEM!
WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE YOU WELL, SUPERMAN.! I FEARED WE WOULD BE TOO LATE.
IT WAS KIND OF CLOSE, PRIMUS, BUT ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I CAN'T COMPLAIN.
WUF!
H-HE FROZE MY SOLAR--INTENSIFIER--!
I FEEL LIKE A SPECTATOR AT A RIOT, JUST STANDING HERE! I'VE GOT TO HELP!
DON'T BE A FOOL, LANE! YOU'RE OUTCLASSED HERE!
STILL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE STUPID, AT LEAST TAKE THIS GUN--
--AND BE... CAREFUL!
WHAT KINDA FREAKS ARE THESE? NOTHIN' STOPS 'EM!
KEEP FIRIN'! MAYBE WE CAN KEEP THEM AT BAY!
HAH! BROOT DOES NOT NEED TO TOUCH YOU--
--TO SMASH YOU!
OWOO!
KHA-WHAAM!
WHEREAS THE CLAWS OF HARPIS ARE ONLY AS EFFECTIVE AS YOUR EARTHLING FLESH IS SOFT!
NOOOOOO
12

CRIPES! MY LASER GOES RIGHT THROUGH HIM--!
DO NOT RESIST THE INEVITABLE, HUMANS! MY CLOUD-BEING MERELY CUTS OFF YOUR OXYGEN, RENDERING YOU UNCONSCIOUS.
BROOT WOULD RATHER CRUSH THESE INSECTS!
THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT, MY FRIEND... NOT WHILE THE POWER OF KALISTA HALTS THEM WITH BUT A GESTURE.
THEY'RE MOPPING UP THIS WHOLE CREW LIKE THEY WERE NOTHING!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR THIS MOLE TO BURROW UNDERGROUND AS DEEP AS HE CAN!
UNNH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIT ME, BUT JUDGING FROM THE CHAOS, WE'RE IN TROUBLE!
MY OMNI-WAVE BLASTER!
WHAT D'YOU KNOW! MAYBE I CAN STILL SALVAGE SOMETHING OF THIS MESS FOR MYSELF..
I CAN STILL KILL SUPERMAN!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
FORGET IT, CREEP!

HUH? SHOTS... BEHIND ME--!
YARRGH!
WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT!
I GOT HIM!
OH-OH!
STAY BACK, SUPERMAN! YOU'RE NOT INVULNERABLE ANY MORE... I SHOT YOU ONCE--I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
THAT YOU COULD, MOLE--
--IF I GAVE YOU THE CHANCE!
BUT ONE FREE SHOT IS ALL YOU GET AT ME-- THEN I START HITTING BACK!
WHUF!
AND SPEAKING OF SHOTS...! LOIS, YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT! I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL EVER THANK YOU!
OH, I'M SURE WE'LL THINK OF A WAY, SUPERMAN... LATER!
I OWE YOU ONE, TOO, DR. CARSON. YOUR MIGHTY MOLE SEEMS TO HAVE SAVED THE DAY.
I ONLY DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY, SUPERMAN. I DON'T WANT YOUR GRATITUDE--JUST TO BE LEFT ALONE.
THEN WE ARE DONE HERE, MY COMPANIONS? IF SO, I SAY IT IS HIGH TIME WE PROCEEDED WITH OUR OWN MISSION.
OF COURSE, PEOPLE. I'M SURE WE CAN GET YOU WHAT YOU NEED--
14

"--AT MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE!"
YOU SEEM DISTRESSED, SUPERMAN.
MY COMPUTER DOESN'T EXACTLY HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, PRIMUS. IT SEEMS THE ELEMENTS YOU NEED TO FUEL YOUR TRIP HOME AREN'T AVAILABLE ON EARTH.
BAH! THEN HAVE WE EXPENDED OURSELVES ON YOUR BEHALF, EARTHMAN, ONLY TO BE DENIED OUR REWARD?
NO, HARPIS. I ONLY SAY IT WASN'T AVAILABLE ON EARTH--
"--NOT THAT I COULDN'T LAY MY HANDS ON IT FOR YOU AT ALL!"
SHORTLY, SOME 22,300 MILES OVER THE PLANET, ABOARD THE FABULOUS JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERAVOA SATELLITE HEADQUARTERS..
THERE IT IS, FRIENDS, ENOUGH FUEL TO GET YOU TO YOUR HOMEWORLD AND BACK AGAIN.
IT IS WELL, FRIEND SUPERMAN.
THOUGH WE'VE NOT SUFFERED OVERMUCH WHILE GUESTS UPON YOUR WORLD, STILL THERE IS MUCH WE NEED DO UPON OUR OWN.
AND SOON THE OMEGA MEN SHALL BE HOMEWARD BOUND!
GLAD I COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE, PRIMUS. IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO CONSIDERING WHAT YOU'VE... HUH?!
THE EMERGENCY ALERT!
BWEEP BWEEP BWEEP
15


WAIT RIGHT THERE, FOLKS! SINCE I'M THE ONLY JLA'ER ON DUTY AT THE MOMENT, I'VE GOT TO CHECK THIS OUT!
THAT'S THE ALARM THAT SOMEONE'S GOTTEN PAST THE SATELLITE'S PERIMETER DEFENSES... THERE!
SOMETHING VAGUELY FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT FORM--
--BUT I CAN'T BE CERTAIN UNTIL THE TRACTOR-BEAM--
TRACTOR-BEAM ACTIVATED
--BRINGS IT INSIDE FOR CLOSER INSPECTION.
I'D BETTER PLAY THIS CAGEY! CONSIDERING THE STATE OF MY POWERS, IF IT ISN'T WHO I THINK IT IS, I COULD BE IN FOR--
--TROUBLE!
RAC... IT IS THEM! BUT WHAT IN THE NAME OF KRYPTON COULD BRING THIS FAR FROM HOME--
--THE NEW TEEN TITANS!?
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE PAGES OF THE NEW TEEN TITANS #24.
NEXT ISSUE:
"HALF A SUPERMAN!"

THE SON OF A LIGHTHOUSE-KEEPER AND A WOMAN EXILED FROM SUNKEN ATLANTIS, ARTHUR CURRY GREW TO MANHOOD WITH THE POWER TO COMMAND ALL FORMS OF SEA-LIFE! TODAY, OPERATING FROM A HOME-BASE IN THE HALF-SUBMERGED CITY OF NEW VENICE, HE IS THE MARINE MARVEL, KNOWN AS...
AQUAMAN
ARTHUR--!
ARTHUR--
HELP ME!!
MERA!
WHERE ARE--EH?!
WHAT A BIZARRE DREAM! AND YET--SO REAL!
IT SEEMED AS IF MY WIFE WERE RIGHT HERE IN THE ROOM WITH ME... PLEADING FOR MY HELP!
"I TALK TO THE SEAS, BUT THEY DON'T LISTEN TO ME!"
BOB ROZAKIS -WRITER-
ALEX SAVIUK -PENCILS-
FRANK McLAUGHLIN -INKER-
ANN KAYE -LETTERER-
TATJANA WOOD -COLORIST-
JULIUS SCHWARTZ -EDITOR-
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CONTINUED ON 35¢ PAGE FOLLOWING

IT MUST BE THE LONELINESS PLAYING ON MY SUBCONSCIOUS...
IT'S BEEN WEEKS SINCE MERA WAS FORCED TO RETURN TO HER OWN DIMENSIONAL WORLD OF XEBEL!
IT WAS EITHER THAT OR BE LITERALLY TORN APART BY THE VIBRATIONS OF OUR WORLD'S PLANE OF EXISTENCE!*
EVEN VULKO, THE FOREMOST SCIENTIST IN ATLANTIS, COULD ONLY SOLVE THE PROBLEM TEMPORARILY!
* AS DIAGNOSED IN ACTION COMICS #517 --DR. J.
STILL, NO MATTER HOW OFTEN I TELL MYSELF IT WAS THE ONLY SOLUTION--AND FOR MERA'S OWN GOOD--
--I GUESS I CAN'T REALLY COPE WITH THE IDEA THAT MY WIFE CAN NEVER COME BACK!
HMM... I SEE THE SUN'S UP--
--AND THAT MEANS IT'S TIME TO LEAVE NEW VENICE AND KEEP MY APPOINTMENT AT THE SEA STATION OFF THE COAST!
IT'S NOT POLITE TO KEEP THE U.S. NAVY WAITING!
I SUPPOSE I'M GOING THROUGH THE SAME FEELINGS HAWKMAN DID WHEN HIS WIFE FLEW OFF AND LEFT HIM STRANDED HERE ON EARTH!
BUT NOW THAT THEY'RE BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, MAYBE I SHOULD TALK IT OVER WITH HIM... FIND OUT HOW HE MANAGED TO COPE.
HI, AQUAMAN! I'D SURE LIKE TO GO SWIMMING WITH YOU SOMETIME!
CAN'T SHAKE THAT DREAM OUT OF MY MIND, THOUGH. IT'S STICKING WITH ME... HAUNTING ME...
...AS IF SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW... MERA IS REALLY CALLING TO ME FOR HELP!

SOME MINUTES LATER, INSIDE THE SEA STATION...
AQUAMAN, MEET DR. TODD CARMEL OF S.T.A.R. LABORATORIES!
IT'S A PLEASURE!
I'M CERTAINLY GLAD ADMIRAL MURPHY PERSUADED YOU TO JOIN US.
ACTUALLY, DR. CARMEL, I EXPECT THIS PROJECT WILL BE FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT!
YOU HOPE TO FIND OUT HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH SEA-CREATURES--
--AND I'M COUNTING ON YOUR RESEARCH TO HELP ME FIND OUT EXACTLY HOW I DO IT!
JUST HOW DO YOU INTEND TO GO ABOUT IT--?
BASICALLY, IT'S QUITE SIMPLE. WE'LL BE USING THIS "BRAIN-PRINT" MACHINE S.T.A.R. DEVELOPED.
IT'S SIMILAR TO A VOICE-PRINTER, BUT IT RECORDS BRAIN-WAVES INSTEAD OF SOUNDS.
BY TAPPING INTO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU TELEPATHICALLY COMMUNICATE WITH AQUATIC CREATURES, WE'LL HAVE A SET OF PATTERNS TO FOLLOW!
BY DUPLICATING THOSE PATTERNS, WE WILL HAVE OUR OWN "AQUA-TALK"!
AS YOU KNOW, THE NAVY'S BEEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH WITH DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES FOR YEARS.
WE EXPECT OUR BRAIN-PRINTER TO ADVANCE THAT RESEARCH BY DECADES.
HMMM... I WONDER...
DR. CARMEL, COULD YOUR MACHINE TAP INTO A PERSON'S MEMORIES?
YOU MEAN BRING THEM BACK? HELP DREDGE UP SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN FORGOTTEN? THEORETICALLY IT'S POSSIBLE... BUT WE NEVER TRIED IT!
JUST WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
COULD YOU DO A PRINT OF SOMETHING IN MY MIND AND DETERMINE WHETHER IT WAS REAL OR IMAGINED?

SPECIFICALLY, WHAT ARE YOU REFERRING TO?
A DREAM I HAD...OR MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING MORE!
YOU SEE, MY WIFE MERA AND I USED TO COMMUNICATE BY TELE-PATHY--
--AND I'M WONDERING IF YOU COULD TAP IN ON SOME-THING FROM THAT DREAM AND MATCH IT WITH ANOTHER REAL MESSAGE FROM HER..
...ASSUMING BOTH MESSAGES ARE IM-PRINTED ON MY BRAIN.
CONSIDERING WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING FOR US, AQUAMAN --I'M MORE THAN WILLING TO GIVE IT A SHOT!
THEN, AFTER THE SEA KING HAS BEEN HOOKED UP TO THE DEVICE...
FINE! NOW CLEAR YOUR MIND...AND FOCUS YOUR THOUGHTS ON A VIVID IMAGE FROM YOUR DREAM!
ARTHUR--
IT'S KIND OF MISTY...
THINK HARDER!
YES...IT'S BECOMING CLEARER... CLEARER...
FANTASTIC--JUST LIKE A VOICE-PRINT!
BETTER, ADMIRAL--MUCH BETTER!
SO FAR, SO GOOD, AQUAMAN.
NOW CONCENTRATE ON ANOTHER TIME IN REAL LIFE WHEN YOUR WIFE SAID--OR THOUGHT-TALKED--THE SAME THING TO YOU!
ARTHUR!
THEORETICALLY, IF ONE INCIDENT IS IMAGINED, THERE WON'T BE A DIRECT MATCH WITH A REAL INCIDENT--
--BUT THEY DO MATCH! MEANING THEY'RE BOTH REAL!
NOT NECESSARILY, ADMIRAL--

I WANT TO DO ONE MORE CROSS-CHECK!
THIS TIME, AQUAMAN, I WANT YOU TO IMAGINE AN INCIDENT WHERE YOU GOT A SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM YOUR WIFE.
ARTHUR!
IF THIS ONE MATCHES, ADMIRAL, IT MEANS MY MACHINE CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REAL AND IMAGINED MEMORIES.
IF IT DOESN'T, THEN YOUR DREAM COULD WELL HAVE BEEN--HEY!
FEELS LIKE THE WHOLE STATION IS COLLAPSING--!
WHAT IS IT--AN ATTACK...QUAKE...?
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT--
I'M NOT WASTING TIME IMAGINING--
"--I'M GOING TO SEE FOR MYSELF!"
HELP! DON'T LET ME FALL IN THE WATER!
A SAILOR AFRAID OF GETTING WET--?!
HANG ON, SAILOR--I'VE GOT YOU!
WHAT'S SO FRIGHTENING DOWN BELOW ANYWAY--?
L-LOOK!
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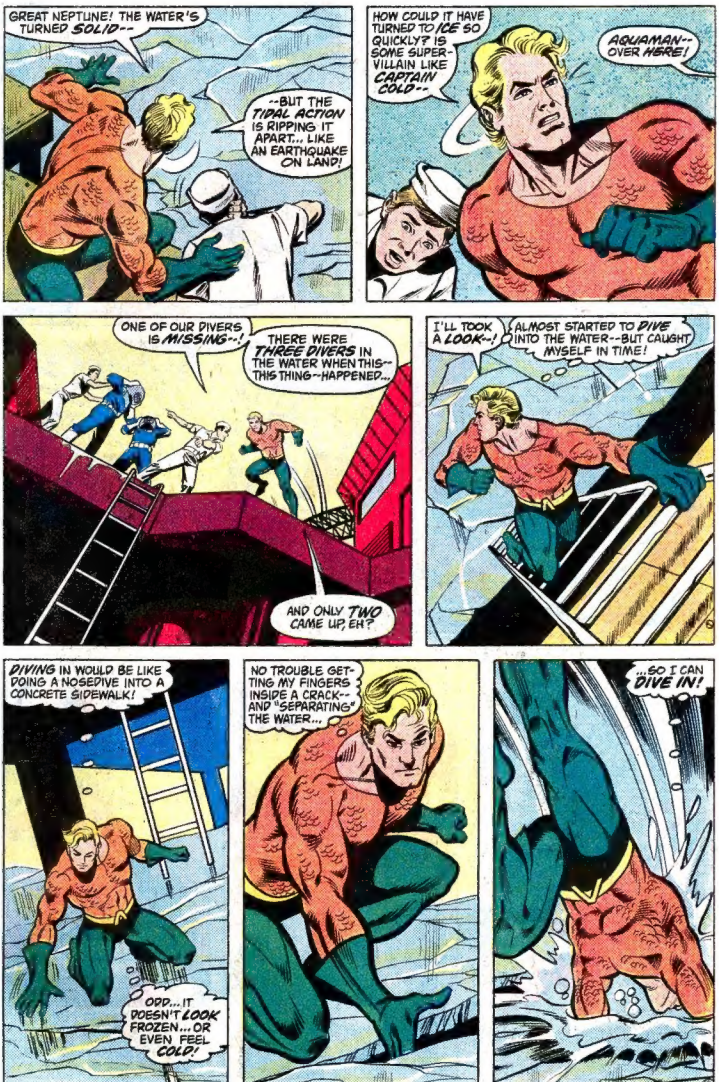
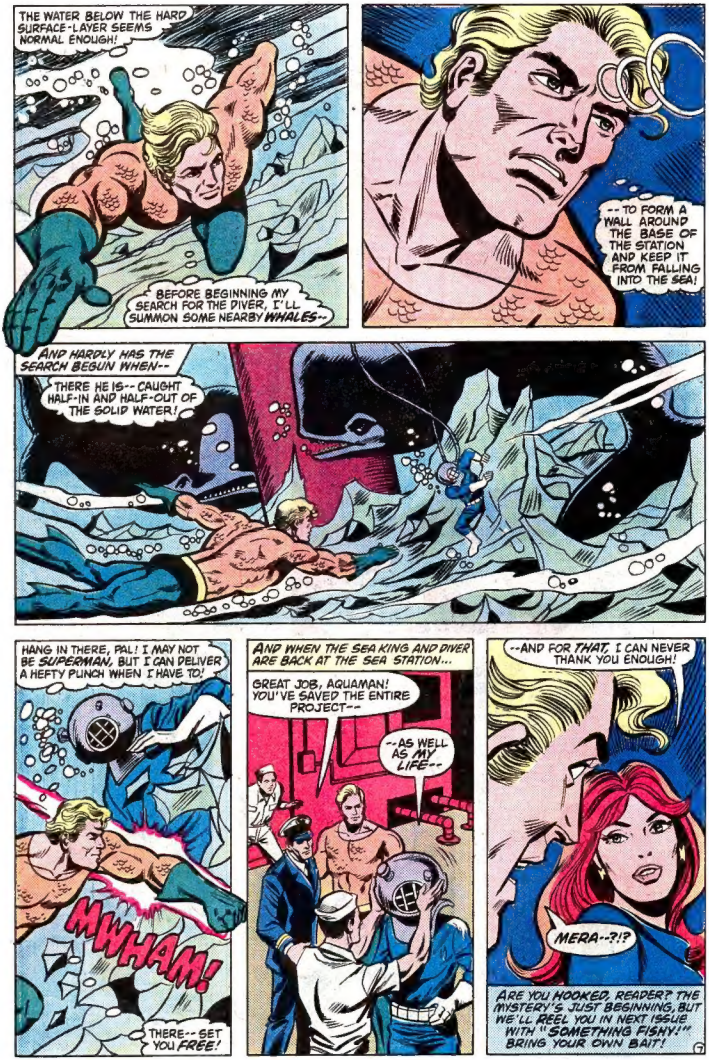
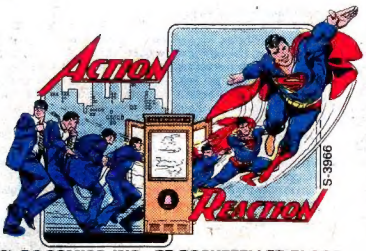

GREAT NEPTUNE! THE WATER'S TURNED SOLID--
--BUT THE TIDAL ACTION IS RIPPING IT APART... LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE ON LAND!
HOW COULD IT HAVE TURNED TO ICE SO QUICKLY? IS SOME SUPER-VILLAIN LIKE CAPTAIN COLD--
AQUAMAN--OVER HERE!
ONE OF OUR DIVERS IS MISSING--!
THERE WERE THREE DIVERS IN THE WATER WHEN THIS--THIS THING--HAPPENED...
AND ONLY TWO CAME UP, EH?
I'LL TOOK A LOOK--!
ALMOST STARTED TO DIVE INTO THE WATER--BUT CAUGHT MYSELF IN TIME!
DIVING IN WOULD BE LIKE DOING A NOSEDIVE INTO A CONCRETE SIDEWALK!
ORD... IT DOESN'T LOOK FROZEN... OR EVEN FEEL COLD!
NO TROUBLE GETTING MY FINGERS INSIDE A CRACK--AND "SEPARATING" THE WATER...
...SO I CAN DIVE IN!


THE WATER BELOW THE HARD SURFACE-LAYER SEEMS NORMAL ENOUGH!
BEFORE BEGINNING MY SEARCH FOR THE DIVER, I'LL SUMMON SOME NEARBY WHALES--
--TO FORM A WALL AROUND THE BASE OF THE STATION AND KEEP IT FROM FALLING INTO THE SEA!
AND HARDLY HAS THE SEARCH BEGUN WHEN--
THERE HE IS--CAUGHT HALF-IN AND HALF-OUT OF THE SOLID WATER!
HANG IN THERE, PAL! I MAY NOT BE SUPERMAN, BUT I CAN DELIVER A HEFTY PUNCH WHEN I HAVE TO!
MWHAM!
THERE--GET YOU FREE!
AND WHEN THE SEA KING AND DIVER ARE BACK AT THE SEA STATION...
GREAT JOB, AQUAMAN! YOU'VE SAVED THE ENTIRE PROJECT--
--AS WELL AS MY LIFE--
--AND FOR THAT, I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH!
MERA--?!?
ARE YOU HOOKED, READER? THE MYSTERY'S JUST BEGINNING, BUT WE'LL REEL YOU IN NEXT ISSUE WITH "SOMETHING FISHY!" BRING YOUR OWN BAIT!



c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Action Arrangers:

To put it mildly, the cover of *ACTION COMICS* #531 was not impressive. However, to balance that statement, I have to say that "The Devil and The Daily Planet" was one of the greatest *ACTION* stories I can remember reading! Not to mention one of the strangest!

Upon close scrutinization, one sees that despite it being a comic book story, this Marv Wolfman tale has an ever-present theme: Where there is love and dedication, there is incessancy! The Daily Planet lives! And Marv conveys this using three powerful characters:

Mort Waxman, the would-be publisher of The Planet, is shown to represent what is present all too often in our society—the desire for money and nothing else. His only interests are those of a selfish economic nature. By contrast, Jeremiah Odets is made to be involved in The Planet in a spiritual form, using that most powerful emotion of all, "My love for this newspaper is too great to let it die...to let it be corrupted by destroying all our hopes." His affection for The Planet is beyond measure. And finally, to almost create an equilibrium between Waxman and Odets, there is Morgan Edge. He has evil obligations, such as those to the stockholders; but he also has compassion for people and things that require it, including Metropolis' greatest newspaper. Thus he spares it from the savage motives of a new publisher. Sure, there was not much super-action and *Superman* could have been considered a secondary character in this piece, but the emotional and human interest overcame that fact.

DOMENIC ROMANO,
68 Iangrove Terrace,
Toronto, Ont.

Variety is the spice of life...and comic book stories, Dom. That's why every now and then we'll run a story like ACTION #531's, just to show that Superman doesn't have to save the entire world every month. There are times when he doesn't even go outside!—BR

* * *

Dear Marv,

Way to go, Marv baby. It's about time Lois Lane got her dander up concerning Clark's continuing pretense of cowardice. She has known him for years and, as she said, he's too good a reporter to be a coward. His pretense would wear thin on anyone he's been around for too long. And the logic of his act is incomprehensible. If he wants to appear a jellyfish, then he can't appear a competent reporter and thus he would lose his job. So he has to tread a fine line between the two and the switching between the two roles is driving his friends crazy. Only their love for him keeps them from turning away. But there must be a point when they wonder if it's worth it. And Lois' statement that she felt something for Clark and her demand that he tell her his problem is really a statement of concern that his behavior could end their friendship. This is a mature change from the days when she would jump to the conclusion that he was acting afraid to protect his identity as *Superman*.

There has been conjecture before that Lois knows Clark is *Superman*. I for one go along with that. Her tirade was her way of showing that if he wants to act like Clark and *Superman* are two separate people, she likes both of them as separate entities. I think the time is right for *Superman* to tell his secret identity. He needs someone to share his life and feelings the way Ma and Pa did. And Pa Kent *did* approve of Lois!

So what do you say? Not necessarily wedding bells, but at least an honest relationship where there is trust and caring. These two people deserve each other.

MARTIN F. CRIPPS,
811 Atlantic Avenue,
N. Wildwood, NJ 08260

We think the relationship between Lois and Superman has been maturing for years. After all, she hasn't tried to cut Clark's invulnerable hair with a scissor since the 1960's!—BR

* * *

Speaking of Lois, while we know many of you will miss her adventures in the now-demised SUPERMAN FAMILY, you can look forward to new tales of her career in THE DARING NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERGIRL, starting with the December issue! Lois' adventures will continue to be scripted by Tamsyn O'Flynn and drawn by Bob Oksner, the team whose work you've praised in SF. And the Girl of Steel will be getting a new look as Paul Kupperberg takes her to Chicago for a new career, artfully drawn by Carmine Infantino! Reserve that 60¢ now!

* * *

Dear Editor:

The Devil and The Daily Planet" was a great story in every sense of the word. The supporting cast and The Planet itself were the real heroes here with *Superman* merely adding some color. Lois, Jimmy, Perry, and Clark are, for all intents and purposes, The Daily Planet. To this day, in any medium, no other individual has been as identified with The Planet as these four. Of course, Morgan Edge is the lord and master over the Galaxy empire, but his jurisdiction isn't exclusive here. Here, too, the same might be said for Clark, yet no writer and no editor have ever been able to take The Daily Planet out of this man!

The haunting plotline at the notion of destroying all The Planet has stood for was exceptional. The supernatural concept within a very real setting was handled at its finest. It provided action and the ghost of Jeremiah Odets gave us one heck of a story. Marv Wolfman, I want to personally thank you for this imaginative and heart-warming tale!

KENT A. PHENIS,
1321 North Meridian Street, Apt. 913,
Indianapolis, IN 46202

What you say about Lois, Jimmy, Perry and Clark being The Daily Planet is interesting, Kent. For years as a young reader of SUPERMAN, I always thought they were the only ones who worked at the paper, especially when the Superman TV show never showed anybody but the four of them! Nowadays, we know there are a couple of other people involved!—BR

* * *

Dear Julie:

What struck me about "The Devil and The Daily Planet" was the fighting spirit of The Planet staff and the deceased Jeremiah Odets. Everyone fighting for the right to work on a

fact-based, hard-hitting news (not gossip) paper. The character combinations paid off as they worked together: Jimmy's optimism and Perry's cynicism tempered with a very mild "Don't call me Chief!" Morgan Edge's controlled indignation and Mort Waxman's do-nothing, self-serving attitude making cobra Edge look like a saint. Clark's cowardice/*Superman*'s bravery and Lois' burning suspicions allayed by yet another valid excuse. All of them wanted one thing—The Daily Planet they loved—and were part of the creation of the spirit of Jeremiah Odets. The bottom line: Edge's refusal to sell to a man like Waxman. It was a change of pace story for these changing times and a strong statement for responsible journalism.

LEONA CANTIN
58 Hayden Avenue
Tiverton, RI 02878

* * *

Perry White isn't the only one telling Jimmy Olsen not to call him "Chief". Recently, actor Marc McClure, who played Jimmy in the Superman movies, came up to visit the DC offices. Editor Julie Schwartz's first comment to Marc? What else? "Don't call me 'Chief'"!

* * *

Dear Actioneers:

"The Devil and The Daily Planet" was a remarkable haunted house story—er, better make that a haunted *newspaper* story—and an excellent lesson in how to write a tale steeped in suspense and derring-do without stinting on the characterization. Marv Wolfman may very well be the best thing to happen to *Superman* since Cary Bates.

The threat of having Waxman take over The Planet was plot enough. (I can see the headlines now: "Superman and Loni Anderson Romance Over!") but Marv throws in the mystery of a ghost haunting the newspaper. Strangely enough, this is just the type of ghost story Waxman aims to put into The Planet! ("Ghost Stalking Office?" and all of that.) It was a bit of a surprise to me that The Planet has been losing money for three years straight, but in the real world, so has the New York Daily News. I guess the top newspapers on both Earths are in the same predicament.

The Lois/Clark confrontation was a definite apex and dealt in feelings and emotions that cut close to the base of their relationship. Lois makes some valid (albeit fiery) points: "You talk like a coward—but you and I both know you're not!" ... "Why do you try driving me mad like this? Why do you make our friendship so difficult to keep up?" and best of all, "What's your problem and what's your secret?" Of course, Clark writhes in discomfiture and his way out—attacking the ghost with cries of "I'm not a coward, Lois!"—was an apt follow-up to Lois' soliloquy.

Another confrontation that had me roaring in delight was Morgan Edge's biting refusal to Waxman's offer. It seems that Edge cares more about The Planet and its reputation than he normally reveals.

The Atom story, "No Time Off For Heroes" actually featured *The Atom* very "little," but it gave us a long-awaited chance to get to know his alter ego, Ray Palmer, a lot better. It was a funny turnaround for Jean the lady lawyer to expect Ed and not Madeline Nardello to be the nuclear physicist in their family. Leave it to Bob Rozakis to slip in some observant social commentary... as well as a whole lot of other things, such as action, humor, a convention, etc. etc....

MARK LAGASSE
RD #1, Box 116
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Social commentary that resulted in some reader commentary, Mark, such as the letter that follows.—BR

* * *

Dear Men of ACTION,

"No Time Off For Heroes" started like *The Private Life of Mr. & Mrs. Ray Palmer*, but *The Atom* did pop up towards the end of this chapter. Having *The Atom* out to see at the beginning on the heels of *Aquaman*'s stint makes it look like *The Atom* is cleaning up after the Sea King, but what was really strange was to see Jean Palmer tripping over her tongue regarding women's roles. Then she admits to feeling uneasy when people are amazed about her being an attorney.

Hawkgirl has become *Hawkwoman* because of the Bob Rozakis Amendment and now *The Atom* has a lawyer wife and female physicist friend. It looks like B.R. is one of the genuine supporters of the E.R.A. But maybe it's Bob's wife who tells him to alter the image of women in comics. He's doing a good job of it, so keep "nagging" him, Laurie.

TIM WAHOWSKE
2307 Braidwood Road
Emmett, MI 48022

Let's let Laurie respond to this one...BR
Even without my "nagging" (though it's not inconsiderable), Bob has always been a staunch supporter of women's rights. Even though he played football in high school (and still looks like a halfback!), Bob's not afraid to do the dishes, laundry, or washing. Tim, I just hope you can be as "liberated" and suppective as Bob. If so, you too will be one-in-a-million and make some woman a wonderful husband!!—LR.

* * *

Dear Julius and Bob,

It was nice to see *The Atom* again in solo action in *ACTION* #531. However, it seems to me that a few simple alterations could make the Tiny Titan a much more formidable, colorful and exciting hero.

Why not have *The Atom*'s strength increase as his atoms are compressed during shrinking? I'm not talking about drastic super-strength, but it could perhaps be tripled at maximum. This would also heighten his leaping abilities; he needs a more dependable way to travel short distances when pursuing criminals. (His legs are so short that any increase in speed is lost by the lack of distance. And riding wind currents can be slow and undependable outside of Chicago.)

It would also seem reasonable that *The Atom*'s durability and toughness would increase as his molecular structure was compacted.

Yet these ideas do not require radical methods of change because they would be by-products of his basic size/weight/mass control powers. They would give *The Atom* more of an atomic effect and since Ray Palmer is a nuclear physicist, they should be easily within his expertise.

I've long been a fan of *The Atom* (since his first appearance, in fact) and it is time some positive changes were made.

WALLACE LEE HOPKINS
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Which opens us up for a really awful pun, Wallace: For every POSITIVE charge in an atom, there is also a NEGATIVE one, so what would happen if we made these positive changes?

Actually, though, The Atom's strength is increased by his ability to change his weight. One hundred and eighty pounds of Atom hitting you on the chin is no doubt as powerful-feeling as a punch from Superman. And the Tiny Titan does manage to leap some long distances when he reduces his weight to near-zero, though we wouldn't want to enter him in a broad jump contest against the Incredible Hulk! (And by the way, there's plenty of wind around for him to ride on. Here in New York as I write this, we're having a blizzard—on April 6th!—and that wind is enough to blow The Atom along—even at his 180-pound weight!)—Bob Rozakis

* * *